

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of automated printing of an image posted to a network site, the method comprising:
  - defining a print criterion;
  - registering a user printer with the network site;
  - determining if the image has been posted to the network site;
  - if the image has been posted to the network site, capturing the image from the network site to the user printer; and
  - automatically printing the image on the user printer according to the print criterion.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein registering the user printer includes defining a printer network address, and wherein defining the printer network address includes defining a unique address associated with the user printer and registering the printer network address with the network site.
3. The method of claim 2, wherein defining the network address includes defining the unique address associated with the user printer as an IP address.
4. The method of claim 1, further including defining a user interface, and wherein defining the print criterion includes defining the print criterion via the user interface.
5. The method of claim 4, wherein defining the print criterion includes at least one of registering user information, sender information, printing options, and image delivery options.
6. The method of claim 5, wherein registering the user information and the sender information includes providing usernames and passwords for a user and a

sender, together with the printer network address and the network site address; wherein capturing the image from the network site to the user printer includes logging on to the network site identified by the network site address with the username and the password of the user, and the image being transferred from the network site to the user printer identified by the printer network address.

7. The method of claim 5, wherein registering the printing options includes selecting at least one of a file format input, a file format output, a print medium size, a print medium type, a number of copies, a printing layout, a color printing option, and a finishing option.

8. The method of claim 5, wherein registering the image delivery options includes selecting at least one of a delivery option, a gallery, and an image size.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein registering the user printer, includes defining a network communications link between the user printer and the network site, and registering the user printer with the network site via the network communications link.

10. The method of claim 9, including defining the network site to be a website.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein registering the user printer with the network site includes defining the user printer to include a printing system controller and a web access mechanism.

12. The method of claim 9, wherein capturing the image from the network site to the user printer and automatically printing the image on the user printer include capturing the image via the network communications link.

13. The method of claim 1, wherein determining if the image has been posted to the website includes defining a master image list as a list of downloaded images from the website and comparing the master image list with images posted to the website.

14. The method of claim 12, wherein comparing the master image list with images posted to the website further includes retrieving an image list of images posted to the website.

15. The method of claim 14, wherein retrieving the image list includes the user printer sending a query to the website according to the print criterion via the network communications link.

16. The method of claim 15, wherein comparing the master image list with all images posted to the website includes comparing the master image list with the image list retrieved from the website, generating via the printing system controller an image request that identifies the image to be printed, and updating the master image list to include the image after it has successfully been delivered to the user.

17. The method of claim 16, wherein capturing the image from the website includes the image being transferred from the website to the user printer according to the image request via the network communications link.

18. The method of claim 17, wherein the image being transferred from the website to the user printer includes the website receiving the image request from the user printer via the network communications link.

19. The method of claim 1, wherein automatically printing the image on the user printer, includes translating the image captured from the network site into a print job.

20. The method of claim 19, wherein automatically printing the image on the user printer further includes executing the print job by printing the image on the user printer and thereby delivering the image to the user.

21. A method of automated printing of a digital photograph posted to a website, the method comprising:

defining a print criterion;

registering a user printer with the website;

determining if the digital photograph has been posted to the website;

capturing the digital photograph from the website to the user printer; and

automatically printing the digital photograph on the user printer according to the print criterion.

22. A system for automated printing of an image posted to a network site on a user printer, the system comprising:

a user printer including a printing system controller, an embedded web access mechanism, and a user interface, wherein the user printer is configured to automatically capture and print an image posted to a network site according to a print criterion predefined via the user interface;

23. The system of claim 22, wherein the user printer contains the printing system controller, the embedded web access mechanism with an embedded application allowing the user printer to communicate with the network site regardless of the network site's operating platform, and a user interface.

24. The system of claim 23, wherein the printing system controller includes a processor, a memory, device-specific hardware, and input/output circuitry; wherein the embedded web access mechanism includes a printer web page, a printer web server, and a network interface.

25. The system of claim 24, wherein the web server is adapted to generate the printer web page, wherein the printer web page is configured to provide the user interface, and wherein the user interface is configured to provide a control communications link to the printing controller for defining the print criterion.

26. The system of claim 21, wherein the user printer is configured to communicate with the network site via the network communications link for registering the user printer with the network site, determining if the image has been posted to the network site, and capturing the image from the network site to the user printer.

27. The system of claim 24, wherein the embedded web access mechanism is configured to permit access to the printer web page by the network site via the network communications link.

28. A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing a method of automated printing of an image posted to a network site, the method comprising:

- defining a print criterion;
- registering a user printer with the network site;
- determining if the image has been posted to the network site;
- if the image has been posted to the network site, capturing the image from the network site to the user printer; and
- automatically printing the image on the user printer according to the print criterion.